

Reasons for Revolution

Purpose

Students will analyze the causes of the Revolution—such as colonial resistance to British imperial policies, the denial of traditional rights of Englishmen to American colonists, and taxation without representation—and read historical fiction about an event of the American Revolution.

Materials

For the teacher: chalk, chalkboard

For each student: social studies textbook, paper, pencil, copy of *My Brother Sam Is Dead* by James Lincoln Collier and Christopher Collier, access to the Internet

Activity

A. Discussion and Independent Research

- Review several reasons for English colonial expansion with students (e.g., colonists' desire for religious toleration).
- Explain to students that one reason colonists wanted independence from England was that England did not grant the same rights to colonists as they did to English people still living in England.
- Explain that there were several taxes levied on colonists that were not levied on English people still living in England. Write the short descriptions on the chalkboard:
 - Stamp Act: taxed legal documents, such as wills and marriage papers
 - Townsend Acts: taxed goods, such as paper, glass, and tea
 - Intolerable Acts: series of acts that limited the power of colonists
- Explain that the colonists felt they should not be taxed because they could not elect representatives to Parliament and thus have a say in their government. Explain that the short description of this situation was "taxation without representation" and that this phrase became one of the main reasons that colonists wanted to be independent from England.
- Tell students that colonists sometimes reacted to these taxes and other events in a nonviolent manner (e.g., by boycotting taxed products). Explain that sometimes colonists reacted in a more volatile manner (e.g., the Boston Massacre).
- Have students read an anonymous account of the Boston Massacre online at:
<http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/D/1751-1775/bostonmassacre/anon.htm>
- Have students debate the authenticity of the account and determine which sections have been embellished.

Technology Literacy Standards

	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
1	X		X	X		X	X
2	X	X	X			X	
3	X					X	X
4		X				X	
5						X	
6		X				X	
7							
8						X	
9						X	
10							
11						X	
12						X	
13				X			
14							
15				X			
16							

X = This Technology Literacy Standard is addressed in this lesson.

= This Technology Literacy Standard is not addressed in this lesson.

